

Gift, Wen, 1981

FINAL REPORT

An Historical and Archaeological Assessment
of the Proposed Public Housing Project Ill-48-10
Pinckneyville, Illinois

Prepared for
LPS Associates, Architects
Carbondale, Illinois

by

David C. Austin
Michael J. McNerney

American Resources Group, Ltd.
Carbondale, Illinois

ABSTRACT

A cultural resources assessment is presented for two parcels of land in Pinckneyville, Illinois, the site of a proposed public housing project (Ill-48-10). The vacant lots were surveyed, and an intensive historical records and literature search was conducted. There is no evidence to indicate that there are significant cultural resources at the site or that the site meets the criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Recommendations are made to proceed with construction without further mitigation.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract	i
Introduction	1
Site Description	1
Research Methods	4
History of Pinckneyville, Illinois	4
History of the Site Area	9
Results and Recommendations	12
References Cited and Bibliography	15
Appendix A, Correspondence	17

LIST OF MAPS

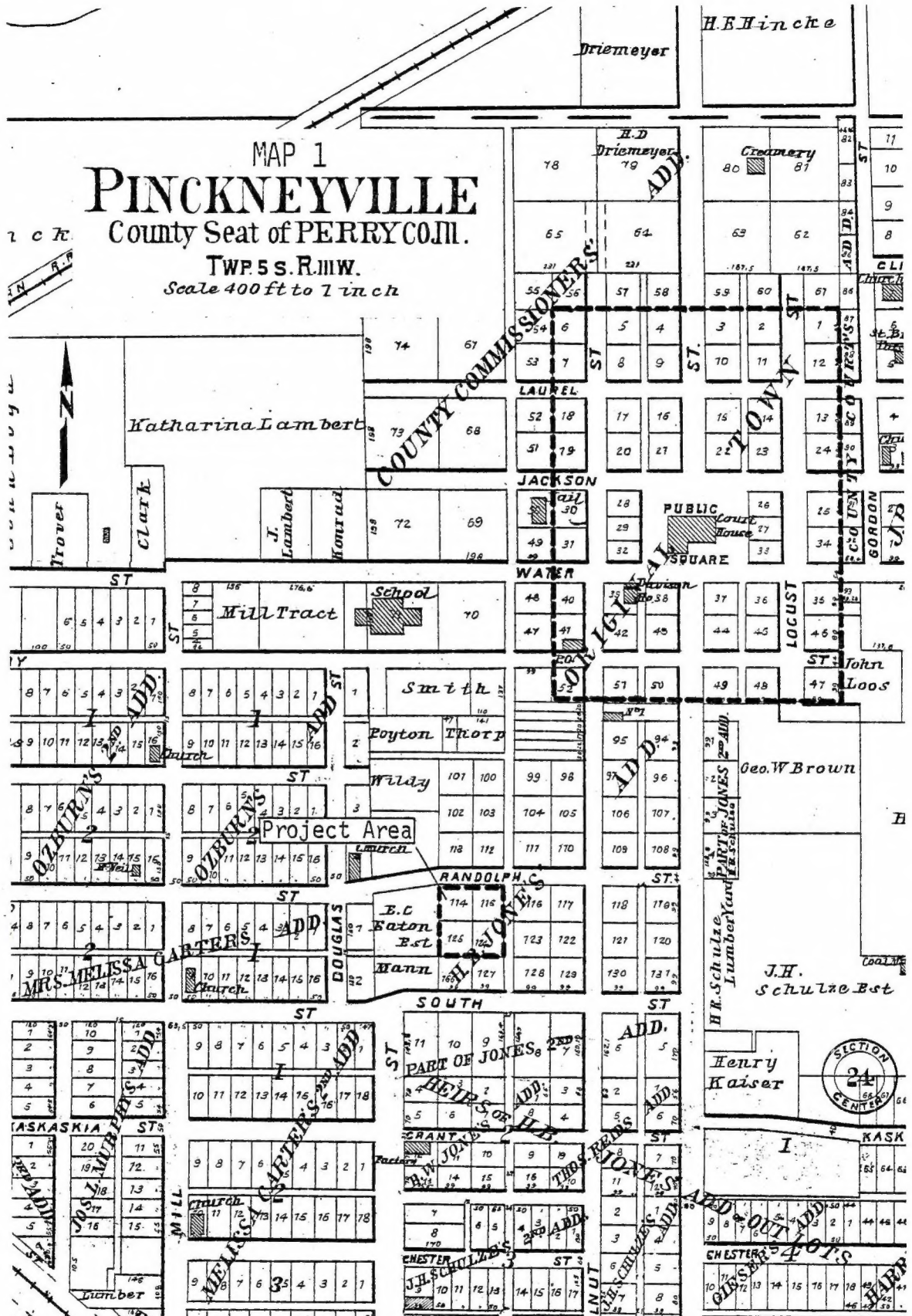
1. Pinckneyville	2
2. Plat Plan Site 2	3
3. Pinckneyville Remembered	8

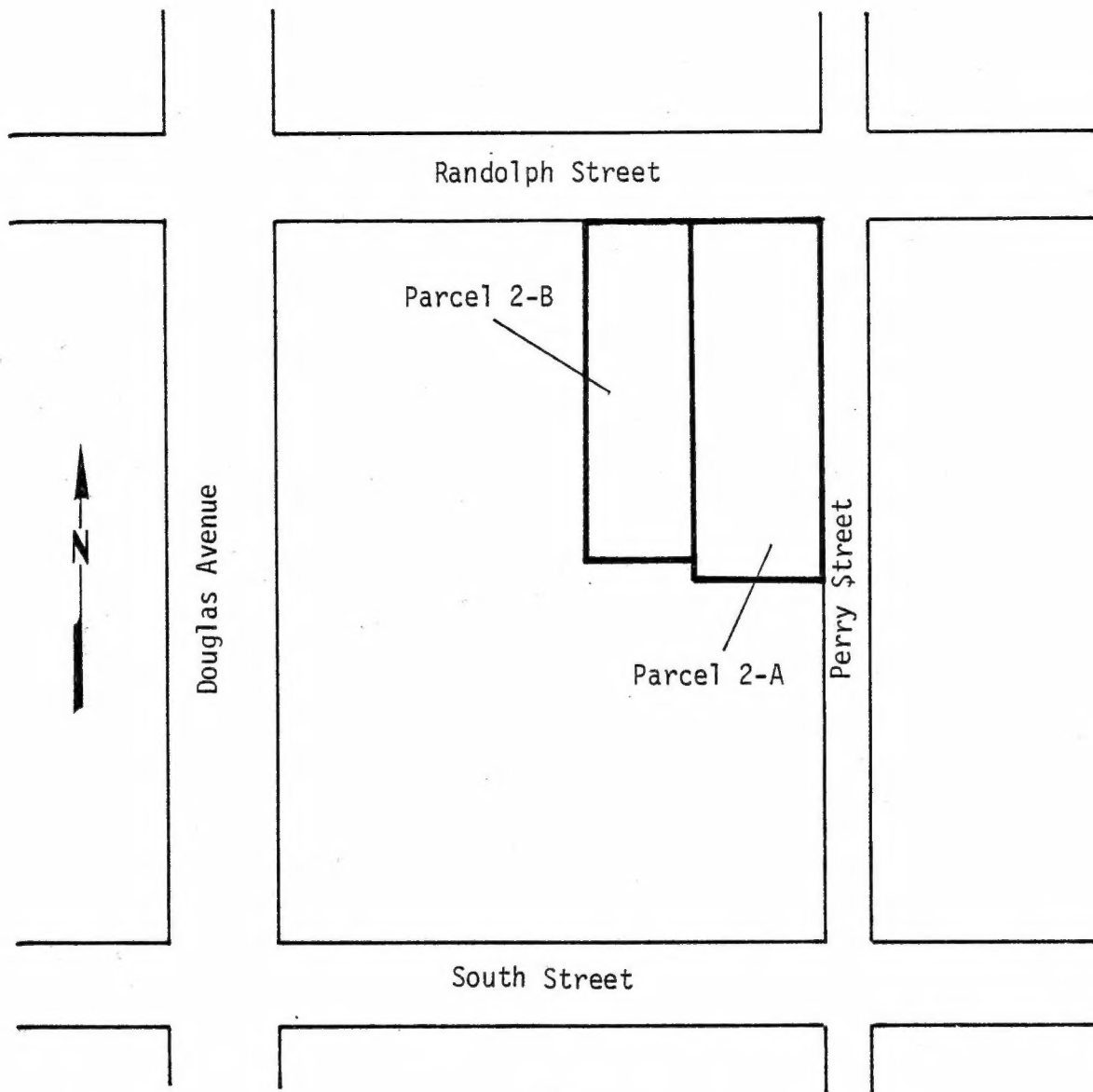
INTRODUCTION

The following cultural resources assessment is conducted at the request of LPS Associates, Architects, of Carbondale, Illinois. The inventory, evaluation, and assessment of historic and prehistoric cultural resources is required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Executive Order 11593, and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974. The primary purpose of this study is to identify significant archaeological or historical resources at the site of a proposed public housing development on portions of lots 114, 115, 124, and 125, H. B. Jones Addition, East $\frac{1}{2}$, Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 24, T5S, R3W, Pinckneyville, Illinois. The lots are at 202 Randolph Street, directly south of the General Telephone Building (maps 1 and 2). Principal Investigator and archaeologist was Michael J. McNerney, assisted by David C. Austin, historian.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The site and the surrounding property consist of nearly level terrain bordered on the north by Randolph Street, on the east by Alley No. 3, and on the west and south by private residences. All former buildings have been razed. In some areas, foundation stones, driveways, sidewalks, cinders, gravel, and the usual fill associated with building demolition are present.





MAP 2
Plat Plan Site 2
Housing Project Ill. 48-10
Pinckneyville, Illinois

Scale 1"=100'
30 0
meters

RESEARCH METHODS

The research methods employed in this study included a complete historical literature and records review, an extensive deed search beginning with the founding of Pinckneyville, an examination of the National Register of Historic Places, and interviews with knowledgeable local residents regarding the past use and occupation of the site. A pedestrian survey of the site was conducted to determine the archaeological potential of the site and to determine if archaeological testing was necessary ahead of construction activity.

As previously indicated, the earlier demolition of buildings at the site left quantities of cinders, rock, concrete, and brick fragments as surface deposits. This type of fill made subsurface shovel testing or hand soil coring impractical. In the context of this assessment, it was felt that an intensive historical records and literature search was a more economical and appropriate assessment technique.

HISTORY OF PINCKNEYVILLE, ILLINOIS

Pinckneyville, the county seat of Perry County, grew out of an act of the Illinois State Legislature approved on January 29, 1827. The act, creating Perry County out of Randolph and Jackson counties, stipulated that a site be chosen for the new county's central seat of government and that it be called Pinckneyville after the American patriot, Charles Coteworth Pinckney. In the spring of that year, three appointed commissioners selected the site in a central location of the new county; and, on July 1, 1827, the plat was recorded by the new Circuit Clerk, Humphrey B. Jones (Roe 1956:75-77).

While Pinckneyville was being platted, the first county elections were held southeast of there in the home of George Franklin. However, since the act had stipulated that the elections be held at Amos Anderson's house, which was east of Pinckneyville, another election had to be held on the basis of this technicality. Three county commissioners, a county treasurer, sheriff, and coroner were eventually chosen (McDonough 1883:162-163).

Twenty of the 40 acres chosen for the site of Pinckneyville were laid out into 52 lots with streets and alleys, all surrounding a public square. Humphrey B. Jones selected for himself another 40 acres south of the town plat. These lands were then entered at the land office in Kaskaskia in late December by William C. Murphy, the county sheriff. On the first day of sale, February 4, 1828, 24 lots were sold, going from \$5 to \$35 each (Neville 194-:13-15).

The first business of the county officials was the creation of two districts, called the eastern and western districts, which were divided by Beaucoup Creek and from which were elected constables and justices of the peace. The county commissioners also levied taxes on slaves and black or mulatto indentured servants, pleasure carriages, distilleries, livestock, bank stock, stock in trade, and on "watches with their appendages." They ordered that the St. Louis-Shawneetown road be "viewed and clearly marked," and they also issued two tavern licenses. Daniel Dry, the county treasurer, received one of these licenses and Amos Anderson another (McDonough 1883:163-164).

The most influential citizen of Pinckneyville in these early years was Dr. Humphrey B. Jones. Originally from Kentucky, Jones lived in Jonesboro and Brownsville, Illinois, before coming to Perry

County in 1826. He was appointed the clerk of the circuit court for the new county by the Illinois Supreme Court and officiated the first county elections. He was both a practicing physician and lawyer; and, as well as performing his duties as circuit clerk, Jones was the postmaster, notary public, and a justice of the peace. He was also influential in establishing the Methodist Church in Pinckneyville after 1837, holding the first services in his home. He died in 1855 at the age of 56 (Agricultural Association Centennial Committee 1956: 158).

Perry County's first courthouse, completed in 1828, was a simple log structure measuring 18 by 22 feet, constructed on the southeast corner of lot 32. A pen for enclosing stray livestock adjoined the courthouse on its west side. In the fall of 1837, a more permanent two-story brick courthouse was built on the public square (Roe 1956: 79).

The town became well established in its early years. Stores and taverns, a blacksmith shop, and a wagon shop were soon opened around the square (McDonough 1883:336). Additions were added to the original plat, the first being in 1839 (Neville 194-:15). A third, larger courthouse was built in 1849-50 (Roe 1956:79). During the 1850s, a number of German immigrants settled in Perry County, a few establishing businesses in Pinckneyville. Phillip Gruder established a hardware store in 1856 on the north side of the square that would remain there in the family through four generations. G. R. and H. E. Hincke opened a general merchandise and produce shop. Their "opera house," also on the north side of the square, is still standing (Union Atlas Company 1876:239). A map of Pinckneyville in the

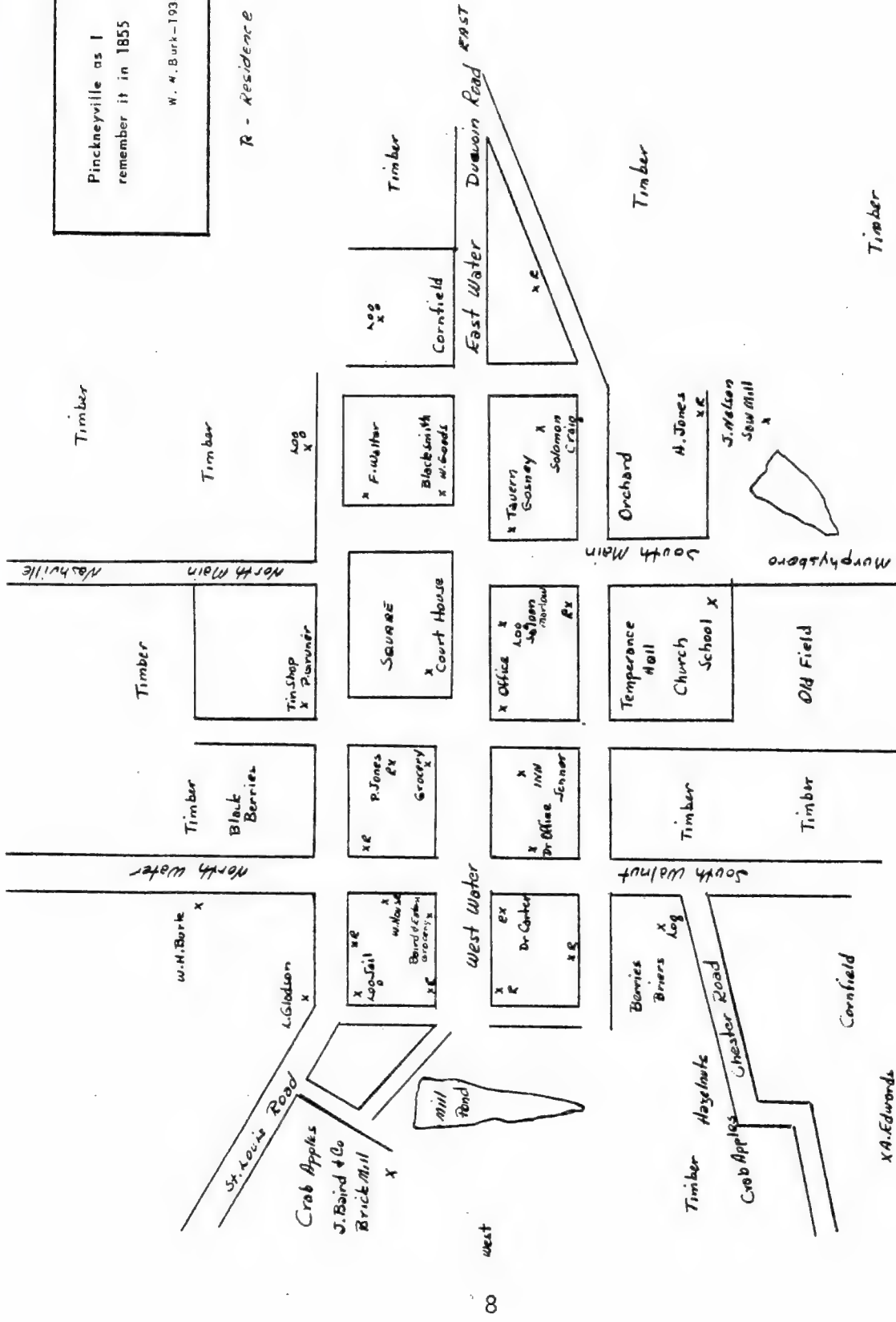
mid-1850s (reproduced from memory by an early resident) (Map 3) shows that a brick mill, a saw mill, and a temperance hall existed at that time (Agricultural Association Centennial Committee 1956:87). The first church and the first school in Pinckneyville were also built in the late 1850s (Agricultural Association Centennial Committee 1956:100-101, 131), and the first newspaper, The Perry County Times, was established in 1856. Pinckneyville itself was incorporated in 1857 (McDonough 1883:199, 338).

Two railroads were constructed through Pinckneyville in the early 1870s. The Belleville and Southern Illinois Railroad, which ran east to DuQuoin, was completed in 1870, and the Chester and Tamaroa Railroad was built the following year. The latter's completion was celebrated by the citizens riding the rails to Chester and viewing the hills and penitentiary (Roe 1956:83). The Beaucoup Coal Mine was established a mile northwest of town along the Belleville and Southern (later the Cairo Short Line) in 1870, and flouring mills were also added to the town's industries. Another newspaper, The Pinckneyville Democrat, began in 1878 (McDonough 1883:338-339, 200).

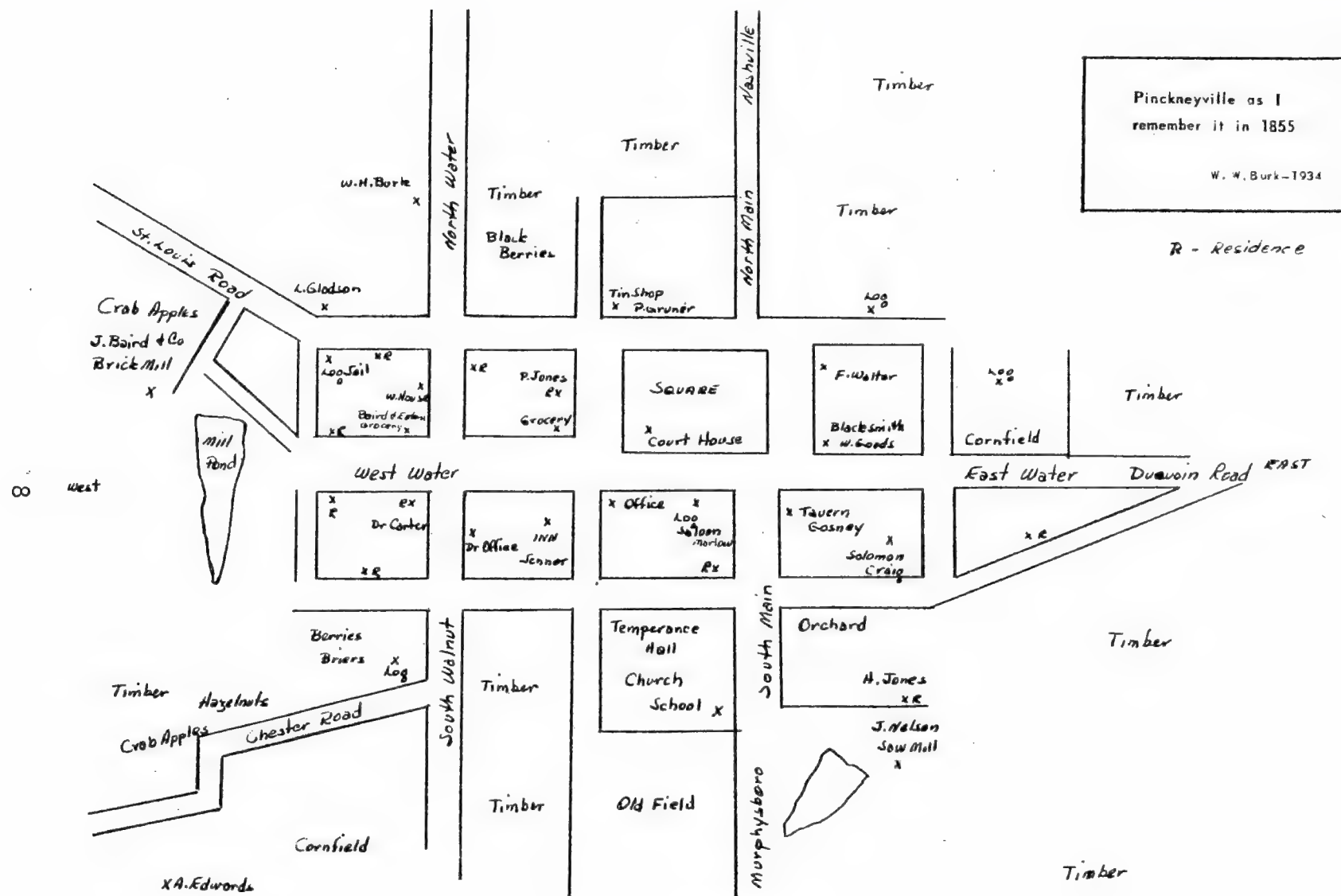
William K. Murphy, nephew of the county's first sheriff, was probably the most prominent citizen of Pinckneyville and of Perry County in the second half of the 19th century. In the 1860s, he was captain of a Civil War infantry company and served as a state representative. He was elected to the state Senate in 1872, again served in the House in 1880-81, and, in 1882, ran for Congress in the 20th Congressional District. He was at the head of the Murphy, Wall, and Company Banking House, president of the First National Bank of Murphysboro, and had interest in a mercantile house and

Pinckneyville as I
remember it in 1855
W. M. Burk - 1934

R - Residence



MAP 3
Pinckneyville Remembered



MAP 3
Pinckneyville Remembered

other businesses. He added several additions to Pinckneyville and owned much of the land south of town (Biographical Publishing Company 1894:240-241).

In November of 1877, the voters in Perry County turned down a proposal for the construction of a new courthouse. The county commissioners, still believing in the need for a new building, were instead forced to contract for improvement and repairs, a move which they could take without approval of the voters. The improvements and repairs, however, involved tearing down the old building nearly to its foundations and rebuilding it, adding a new wing on the east side. It was completed in 1879 (Roe 1956:79-81).

In 1880, Pinckneyville had a population of 965; and, by 1900, it had grown to 2,357. Flouring mills, nearby coal mines, carriage and plow factories, and a lumber mill were the main industries. The town had two newspapers, The Democrat and the Pinckneyville Advocate, two banks, seven churches, a grade school, and a high school (Bateman and Selby 1907:425).

In 1939, with some funds provided by the Work Projects Administration, the courthouse that was built in 1879 was remodeled and enlarged.

HISTORY OF THE SITE AREA

The property on the 200 block of West Randolph Street was a part of the 40 acres purchased from the State of Illinois by the first Perry County commissioners in 1827. In 1841, they conveyed it to Dr. Humphrey B. Jones, the most influential of Pinckneyville's early citizens. Jones subdivided an area southwest of the original town plat in 1853. The lots on Randolph Street (lots 114, 115, 124, and

125) were included in the H. B. Jones Addition (Agricultural Association Centennial Committee 1956:158-159).

In October, 1868, Jones' heirs sold the Randolph Street property to Enoch Eaton for \$500. This same year, Enoch C. Eaton established a plow factory in Pinckneyville, possibly on this property. An 1883 description of the factory states that it was a one-story frame building, 130 by 40 feet (McDonough 1883:338). In 1883, Eaton sold a strip of property comprising portions of lots 114, 115, 124, and 125. This property, purchased by James P. Cowens, measured 186 by 40 feet, roughly the same measurements as Eaton's factory building. Thus, it is possible that Eaton's plow factory was built on the strip of land purchased by Cowens, although this has not been confirmed.

In 1905, Cowens sold this strip to Andrew J. McElvain, who established, in a small building there, McElvain's Ice Cream Parlor. Pinckneyville residents recall that the business operated at least during the 1930s and that it may have been the first such establishment of its kind in Pinckneyville. More exact dates of its operation are not known, although the property remained in McElvain's name until 1944.

The eastern portion of lots 115 and 124 remained in the Eaton family throughout the remainder of the 19th century. Probably a structure was built here during this period (1868-1902), for, when it was purchased in 1902, its value was placed at \$4,390. One of the purchasers of 1902 was William S. Wilson, president of the Building and Loan Association, executive head of the First National Bank, a member of the town council, and president of the Board of

Education. Wilson probably invested as a purely commercial venture, for he sold his interests in 1909 (Smith 1912:912-914). The other purchasers in 1902 were E. R. Hincke and G. W. Hincke, German immigrants who had long been in the mercantile business (Union Atlas Company 1976:284). The Hincke brothers operated a grocery-general merchandise store on the Randolph Street property before moving to the square. The eastern portion of lots 115 and 124 would remain in their name until 1945.

W. A. Nesbitt then operated a dry goods store at this location after the Hinckes, but he also moved to the square sometime before 1920. In July, 1921, the Perry County Farmers Union opened a cooperative store at the site.

The Farmers Union was based on the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America. On March 1, 1919, area farmers met at the county courthouse to organize a local union (The Democrat, March 6, 1919). In 1921, 210 members of the union invested \$4,400 to rent the building and open the store. The next year, the store had \$72,000 in sales. By 1926, possibly for reasons of bad management but also from competition of local chain stores, the cooperative's business was declining (Warne 1926:135; Table VIII, 365-366). The first managers, Joe Hoffman and John Valentine, were replaced by Al Frazer approximately 1927. Frazer's operations were supervised by a board of directors, and the cooperative managed to stay in business. Frazer stayed on as manager until about 1939.

The cooperative sold everything a farmer could need or want: food, hardware, grain, feed, clothing, footwear, paint, wallpaper, and fresh produce. Farmers would bring in their eggs, cream, chickens,

and other produce and, in turn, would receive whatever goods they needed.

The building itself was of brick, two stories high. Originally, it may have been two separate buildings, later joined together. A small lean-to structure was built to the west of the building to house the cream and milk during the life of the cooperative. A gas pump was erected behind the building.

The cooperative went out of business approximately 1941. The growth of the Farm Bureau and the decline of the older Farmers Union may have contributed to its downfall (Crampton 1965:139-145). Theodore Wagner opened a hardware store at the site after the cooperative closed, and Morgenstern Brothers operated there as agents for Allis-Chalmers (Agricultural Association Centennial Committee 1956: 132, 162). Barr Implement Company was the last business to locate there.

Thus, lots 114, 115, 124, and 125 have always had commercial establishments on site. Enoch Eaton's plow factory was possibly at this location. The two-story brick mercantile building, probably built in the 1870s or after, housed several different hardware-general merchandise stores since the early 1900s, if not before; a smaller building was built on McElvain's strip of property west of the mercantile building.

RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

An intensive records and literature search, interviews with local residents, and an examination of the site have resulted in considerable historical information regarding the former use and occupation of the

property. The site and immediate neighborhood have been a commercial area for many years. Although many of Pinckneyville's earliest settlers and leading business people were involved with the property, the lack of standing structures at the location leaves nothing in the way of tangible cultural evidence of these peoples' lives and business ventures. This assessment constitutes a contribution to the preservation and documentation of Pinckneyville's cultural heritage. Further research would be interesting and informative but is not appropriate in the context of this project.

It is our opinion and recommendation that this site does not require further mitigation. This recommendation is based on the evaluation of the site against criteria established for the nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places and our professional experience in archaeological and historical research. Determining the eligibility of properties for listing to the National Register is based on the following criteria:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects of State and local importance that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and:

- (1) That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- (2) That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- (3) That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- (4) That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history (39FR3366, Jan. 25, 1974).

Based on this study and the evaluation of the research findings against the above criteria, there is no evidence to support the

nomination of the site to the National Register of Historic Places. There remains a possibility that during construction a deeply buried site or significant cultural remains may be encountered. If this happens during construction, the Principal Investigator and the Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer (Director, Department of Conservation, 605 William G. Stratton Building, 400 South Spring, Springfield, Illinois, 62706) should be contacted immediately.

With the growth in urban redevelopment, there is presently a need to accumulate information and develop cultural resources assessment techniques for projects similar to Ill-48-10. Therefore, American Resources Group would like to monitor initial excavations on this project in order to observe the types and nature of possible archaeological remains at the site. It is requested that American Resources Group be contacted by LPS Associates or the building contractor at the time excavations are begun. There will be no charge for this archaeological monitoring as it is simply an independent research interest designed to improve the assessment techniques of American Resources Group on future projects.

REFERENCES CITED AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

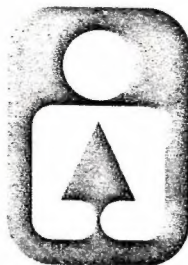
- Agricultural Association Centennial Committee
1956 Perry County fair centennial, 1856-1956. Agricultural Association Centennial Committee, Pinckneyville, Illinois.
- Bateman, Newton, and Paul Selby (editors)
1907 Historical encyclopedia of Illinois. Munsell Publishing Company, Chicago.
- Biographical Publishing Company
1894 Portrait and biographical record of Randolph, Jackson, and Monroe counties, Illinois. Biographical Publishing Company, Chicago.
- Crampton, John A.
1965 The National Farmers Union. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln.
- The Democrat
1919 The Democrat, March 6, 1919, Pinckneyville, Illinois (Midwest Microfilm Company, Springfield).
- McDonough, J. L., and Company
1883 Combined history of Randolph, Monroe, and Perry counties. J. L. McDonough and Company, Philadelphia.
- Neville, J. Wesley
194- Student's history of Perry County (mimeographed).
- Ogle, George A., and Company
1902 Standard atlas of Perry County, Illinois, including a plat book of the villages, cities, and townships of the county. George A. Ogle and Company, Chicago.
- Roe, John E.
1956 History of Perry County and the city of Pinckneyville. In Perry County fair centennial, 1856-1956, pp. 75-83. Agricultural Association Centennial Committee, Pinckneyville, Illinois.
- Smith, George Washington
1912 A history of southern Illinois (3 Vols.). Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago.
- Union Atlas Company
1876 Atlas of the state of Illinois, history, statistics, and illustrations. Union Atlas Company, Chicago.
- Warne, Colston Estey
1926 The consumer's cooperative movement in Illinois. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

Other information supplied by records kept at Roe Abstract Company, Pinckneyville, Illinois, and by interviews with the following Pinckneyville residents:

Ms. Lucille Trafftze, 212 West Randolph
Mrs. Alberta McDaniels, McDaniels Furniture
Mr. and Mrs. George Wolfe
Mr. George Ulrich, 305 North Walnut

APPENDIX A
Correspondence

Illinois



Department of Conservation

life and land together

605 WM. G. STRATTON BUILDING • 400 SOUTH SPRING STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62706
CHICAGO OFFICE - ROOM 100, 160 NO. LASALLE 60601

David Kenney, Director • James C. Helfrich, Assistant Director

April 14, 1980

Mr. Michael J. McNerney
President
American Resources Group, Ltd.
522 East Main Street
P. O. Box 3217
Carbondale, Illinois 62901

Dear Mike:

Director Kenney forwarded your draft report entitled, "An Historical and Archaeological Assessment of the Proposed Public Housing Project Ill-48-10 Pinckneyville, Illinois" for review and comment.

I have gone over the report in some detail and it is generally satisfactory. I agree with your assessments and conclusions entirely. The only substantive comment that I have is that it seems to me your report could benefit from an expanded description of what you actually did in the archaeological component of the project. Also, the State of Illinois no longer has an Office of Historic Preservation, therefore, the reference you make in the last sentence of the last paragraph on page 13 should be changed from "Illinois Office of Historic Preservation" to the "Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer (Director, Department of Conservation, 605 Wm. G. Stratton Building, 400 South Spring, Springfield, Illinois 62706)." Otherwise, the report is adequate.

If you have any questions or would like clarification, don't hesitate to call me.

Regards,

Alan S. Downer, Jr.
Staff Archaeologist
Division of Historic Sites
405 East Washington
Springfield, Illinois 62706

ASD:nr

April 21, 1980

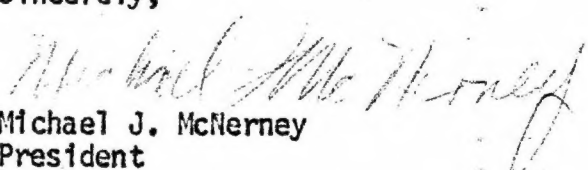
Mr. Alan S. Downer, Jr.
Staff Archaeologist
Division of Historic Sites
405 East Washington
Springfield, Illinois 62706

RE: Pinckneyville Proposed Public
Housing Project

Dear Alan,

Thanks for your review of the above report.
I have clarified the archaeological methods in
the research section per your suggestion. It
was not clear in the draft copy.

Sincerely,


Michael J. McNerney
President

MJM:fbp

Enclosure